

PLANNING Raleigh 2030

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



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What is the Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint for Raleigh's future. It is a policy document adopted by the Raleigh City Council to guide public decision-making regarding physical development, redevelopment and public investment. The Comprehensive Plan addresses a wide range of issues such as housing, land use, economic development, transportation, public facilities, historic preservation and urban design. The Comprehensive Plan also guides the rezoning of land and capital investment.

North Carolina statutes do not mandate the preparation of a comprehensive plan, but there are State statutes that confer that a zoning ordinance be in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Raleigh's City Charter authorized the Department of City Planning to prepare a comprehensive plan *"for the purpose of over-all planning for the city rather than disintegrated and disassociated fragments."* The City Charter also states that the comprehensive plan is intended to *"assist several operating departments of the City in formulating a public policy which will treat the problems of the municipal government as a closely knit whole."*

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Why are we updating the Comprehensive Plan?

Comprehensive plans should be regularly reviewed and changed because conditions in the city change. The current plan has become dated and overly complicated. The last Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1989, with a horizon of 2020. Since 1989 the population of Raleigh has grown by 72 percent. In addition, recent laws passed by the North Carolina State Legislature have strengthened the link between comprehensive plans and zoning. The City's current plan needs enhancement to meet this elevated role.

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What is involved in updating the Comprehensive Plan?

A good and successful comprehensive plan must reflect the values of the community. City staff gather and analyze background information, such as growth trends and traffic analysis, and present it to the public for review and comment. City staff must also evaluate the existing 1989 Comprehensive Plan to recommend what policies should be carried forward to the new Comprehensive Plan. Public meetings will be held to hear ideas and comments from the public. The background information and public input feed into a lengthy problem-solving process. Issues and opportunities are identified and analyzed. Then policy recommendations are developed. The resulting policies are expressed in both written and map form. The draft document is presented for public comment one last time. A refined version is submitted to the City Planning Commission and City Council for public hearing and adoption.

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Who is doing the Comprehensive Plan Update?

The Department of City Planning is the lead agency overseeing the update of the Comprehensive Plan. There also is a working group of key City departments including Public Works, Public Utilities, Parks and Recreation and Community Development. The City Planning Commission and City Council will convene for work sessions at key points during the process and will participate in the refining the plan during the adoption process. A multi-disciplinary consulting team, led by HNTB Corporation, (www.hntb.com) is assisting the City with the effort. Most importantly, the citizens and stakeholders throughout the City will play a key role in developing the content and direction of the Plan.

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What are some key issues for the Comprehensive plan?

While the issues that the Plan addresses will continue to evolve as a result of citizen and stakeholder input, the Department of City Planning has identified a preliminary set of key issues. They include greater predictability in the development process for landowners, developers and neighborhoods; identifying the public actions and investments necessary to keep the city competitive into the future; focusing on environmental sustainability as a 21st Century City; and building great public streets, spaces and places that will provide lasting value for present and future generations.

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What is the public process for updating the Comprehensive Plan?

The City will convene three sets of three public workshops, each held on successive days in November 2007, March 2008 and November 2008. Each set of workshops will have the same format and content. The goal is to hold meetings throughout the City to meet with people where they live. Citizens can attend any meeting and see the same content. The first round of public workshops will be held on November 13, 14 and 15. Following a presentation of background information, planners will work with the public to identify the “big picture” themes that will guide the

plan. A second round of public workshops will be held in March 2008, following the completion of the background studies and identification of key issues and potential recommendations. Additional public input will be gathered. City staff and consultants will continue to refine the plan through the summer and fall 2008. In November 2008 a final round of three public workshops will be held. A working draft of the plan will be presented to the public for comment. The final draft plan will be presented to the City Council in the January 2009 to start the formal public hearing process to adopt the plan. The City Planning Commission and City Council will hold formal public hearings in 2009 before the plan is officially adopted.

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How can I stay informed?

The best way to stay informed is to visit the project website at www.PlanningRaleigh2030.com. The Raleigh Department of City Planning will post meeting notices and documents on this web page throughout the process. Before the end of the year, the website will be enhanced to include a rich set of public input tools, including the opportunity to comment on draft documents.

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How can I get involved?

There are two excellent ways to get involved. First, plan on attending the public workshops as described above under “What is the process for updating the Plan?” All substantial public comments will be documented at the meetings and addressed. Secondly, the Comprehensive Plan website will soon provide opportunities for you to read about the project’s progress in detail, comment directly on draft documents, take surveys and interact with others interested in the plan.